(d) No, Sir.

Fire in shed of New Delhi Railway goods yard

1410. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA; Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

bethel it is a fact that goods worth several lakhs of rupees were destroyed in a fire which broke out in a shed of the New Delhi Railway goods yard in Ajmeri Gate on 25th May, 1986;

(b) if so, what are .the details of the goods damaged and the cause of the fire;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was delay in the arrival of the fire fighting personnel to extinguish the fire, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

'(d) whether it is also a fact that fire have occurred earlier als$_0$ at this place which is a congested locality; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to prevent occurrence of fire.; at this place and measure: for controlling them quickly?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four wagons containing papers, black gram and oil cake$_s$ and shed No. 3 of th$_e$ goods shed were partially damaged in this fire. Enquiry conducted into the incident has revealed that the fire was caused due to inadvertant throwing of live match stick/burning bidi/cigarette butt by some passer-by.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Railway staff working in this area have been instructed to be more alert and vigilant and strictly follow all preventive measures to prevent recurrence of such fire.3 in future. Following measures have been specifically ordered-

(i) Proper stacking and covering of goods i,$_n$ the shed i$_s$ being ensured.

(ii) Steam locomotives are being replaced by Diesel Engines fo$_r$ situating purposes.

(iii) To refresh the knowledge of the employees in first-aid fire fighting techniques, intensive training is proposed to be imparted.

(iv) Emphasis is also being laid on good house keeping and maintenance of cleanliness in Goods shed.

(v) More 'No Smoking' sign boards are being displayed in thi« area.

Excavation work in Assam

1411. SHRT NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whethet the Archaeological Survey of India has taken up any excavation work in Assam;

(b) whether the Archaeological Survey of India deputed some experts to visit the ancient monuments of Assam;

(c) whether it i$_s$ a fact that official? of the Archaeological Survey of India could not visit the Ambari Site of excavation till this date;

'(d) whether it is the practice with the ASI to send experts to examine the monuments \$_n$ Assam at regular intervals;

(e) if so, what i$_s$ the frequency of such visits; and

(f) whether there is any proposal to preservo the Hajjarvarman's tock-inscriptio$_n$ of the 9th Century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Archaeological Surrey of India has participated in excavation work at Ambari during 1970-71 along with the Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University, State Department of Archaeology, Assam and the Deccan College, Pune.